

AK Kodiak Salmon Set Gillnet Fishery

Fishing gear type: Gillnet

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: The total annual mortality and serious injury of harbor porpoise (Gulf of Alaska [GOA] stock) in this fishery is greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a ⁽¹⁾ indicates those stocks driving the fishery's classification): Harbor porpoise, GOA ⁽¹⁾; Harbor seal, GOA; Sea otter, Southwest AK; Steller sea lion, Western U.S.

Estimated number of current participants: 188

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: None.

Year added to the LOF: 1996

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on logbook data. The total mortality and serious injury of harbor porpoise (GOA stock) was 4 animals/year, or 1.6% of PBR.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 162

Past names, if any: None.

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses set gillnet gear with continuous soak times during the opener[†]. Fishing effort occurs during the day, with the catch is picked from the net two or more times each day. The majority of set gillnets are attached to a shore lead up to 80 fathoms (480 ft; 146 m) long in a straight line to a king buoy offshore, with numerous anchor lines and buoys holding the net in place. The last 25 fathoms (150 ft; 46 m) of the net is usually formed into a fish trap, also called a hook.

Target species: Salmon.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: This fishery generally operates from June 9 to the end of September or early October. Many areas are open until early October, but most fishermen remove the nets by early September. As the runs progress in late July and change from sockeye to pink salmon, the AK Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) often reduces the length of openers if escapement goals have not been met. Fishing effort begins to reduce in mid- to late-August as salmon runs begin to decline.

This fishery consists of two Districts, the Northwest District from Spruce Island to the south side of Uyak Bay, and the Alitak Bay District located on the southwestern corner of Kodiak Island. In most years, the Northwest District is fished by approximately 100 permit holders and constitutes approximately 70% of the annual fishing effort, while the Alitak Bay District is fished by approximately 70 permit holders and constitutes approximately 30%

* The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

[†] Salmon may only be fished commercially during periods known as openers established by the AK Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) in-season. Openers may last days or weeks. The ADFG posts weekly notices of fishing openers and announces the openers on regular radio channels. Fishing periods are often extended by emergency order during the last 24 hours of the opener.

of the annual fishing effort. Traditionally, the Northwest District is open for the majority of June and July, while effort in the Alitak Bay District typically occurs 5 to 7 days out of every 10 days during the fishing season.

Levels of observer coverage each year[‡]: Observer coverage is calculated by the percentage of fishing days observed. Observer coverage was 6.0% in 2002. This fishery was not observed from 1990-2001, or 2003-2005.

Management and regulations: This fishery is managed by the ADFG as a limited entry fishery with gear restrictions on the mesh and net size, and area closures.

History of Changes on the LOF

2006 LOF:

- Steller sea lion (Western U.S.) added to list of species/stocks incidentally killed/injured to update the list of stocks associated with the fisheries delineated 2004 (into more discrete fisheries according to area, gear and target species to reflect fisheries as managed under the relevant Fishery Management Plans).
- Added a superscript “1” in Table 1 after harbor porpoise (GOA), indicating that takes of this stock are driving the classification of the fishery.

2001 LOF:

- Estimated number of participants updated from 172 to 188.

1999 LOF:

- Sea otter (Southwest AK) added to list of species killed/injured species/stocks incidentally killed/injured based on recent reported interactions.
- Estimated number of participants updated from 173 to 172.

1998 LOF:

- The stock of harbor porpoise on the list of species killed/injured in this fishery was changed from “AK” to “GOA.”
- Estimated number of participants updated from 162 to 173.

[‡] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).